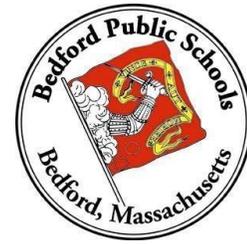


BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



To: Members of the Bedford School Committee
From: Cliff Chuang, Superintendent
Date: October 6, 2023
Subject: Update on Six-Year Capital Plan

At your October 10, 2023, meeting, Facilities Director Ron Scaltreto and Finance Director Julie Kirrane will provide an update on the district's six-year capital plan, including specific details regarding our FY25 capital budget request to be presented to the town's Capital Expenditure Committee. This will include requests related to School Capital Maintenance (Instructional Technology and Fixtures, Furniture & Equipment replacement); School/Facilities Capital Maintenance (painting, flooring replacement); and School/Facilities Capital Projects (Davis and JGMS elevator controls replacement, continued implementation of the school safety and security plan–Phase 2).

I do want to highlight a shift in implementation timing regarding the implementation of security cameras that I am recommending with respect to our phased school safety and security project to address the issues identified in the safety and security reviews conducted by the Edward Davis Company in Spring 2023. This shift is predicated on the anticipated approval of the new security camera policy also being presented at your October 10, 2023 meeting that appropriately governs camera use in schools while protecting privacy rights. This shift will not change the amount of funds being requested for the safety and security improvements in FY25 (\$925,000), but simply re-order the implementation of certain elements of the plan.

After additional consultation with members of the district leadership and critical response teams, the high school administrative team, and law enforcement partners, and in accordance with the risk prioritization outlined in the Ed Davis Company safety review, I am persuaded that the implementation of security camera systems should take precedence over the installation of anti-shatter and bullet-proof glass and other hardening measures such as bollards planned for this year. With security cameras in place, we can avoid unnecessarily consuming costly school administrative and public safety resources when investigating safety incidents.

Accordingly, assuming approval of the security camera policy also being presented on October 10, 2023, I am proposing to utilize already-approved FY24 capital budget funds for phase 1 to begin installation of security cameras on the high school campus as soon as practicable, and delay the implementation of hardening measures until FY25. We would complete the installation of security cameras at the other schools as planned in FY25, along with the expansion of door and window security systems and hardware for all access points.

With your agreement, we would then plan to inform the Capital Expenditure Committee of this shift as part of our FY25 capital budget request currently scheduled for early November, prior to commencing implementation.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.